



FEBRUARY 20-26

MATWATCH

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Steamboat Wins NWA Title

CHICAGO - In a classic, Ricky Steamboat reversed a figure-four leglock and rolled Ric Flair into a small package hold to win the NWA world heavyweight championship Monday night before a national pay-cable audience at the U.I.C. Pavilion. Steamboat's title victory in 23:18 was the third title change for the NWA belt ever in Chicago on a night when two other NWA championships changed hands. Lex Luger upset Barry Windham to win the U.S. title for a second time and Mike Rotunda pinned Rick Steiner to win back the NWA TV title. In addition, The Midnight Express pinned Randy Rose to eliminate Rose from the NWA in a match Dennis Condrey no-showed.

In the Flair-Steamboat match, the two posted 24 two-counts and Steamboat survived Flair's trademark figure-four leglock and a vertical suplex to rally for the victory. Steamboat gained four near falls in the first 3:50. Flair rallied for a reverse cradle near pin at 5:00. The two traded chops before Steamboat scored with a smashing double chop at 5:40 for a 2 5/6 count. At 7:08, a Steamboat chop sent Flair out of the ring.

Steamboat was thrown into the ringside rail at 12:35 and after a Flair kneedrop, had to survive three two-counts. One of the classic series was when Ricky scored with a series of chops, Flair did his trademark over-the-turnbuckle flip, raced for the opposite buckles, dove for the body block and Steamboat reversed it for a 2 3/4 count. The champion then managed to apply his patented figure-4 leglock at 15:00. For the first time, a major chant of "STEAMBOAT....STEAMBOAT" came from the U.I.C. crowd. After Flair was caught using the ropes for leverage, both men crashed over the top rope in an exchange. Steamboat was posted at 17:20 and Flair scored a vertical suplex for a 2 3/4 count at 18:05 and followed with two more near falls. The champ failed four times with his leg-on-ropes maneuver.

Steamboat missed a flying body press at 19:45 and Flair scored a double-arm suplex for a 2-count at 20:25. Steamboat rallied for a backslide and clothesline at 21:20. But as he went for a flying body press, Steamboat crashed into Flair and referee Tommy Young.

Just as we thought the Dusty finish was back, Flair went for a cradle but no one was available to count. Teddy Long arrived in time to see Steamboat miss another body block from the top rope. But as Flair rolled for the figure-4, Steamboat grabbed Flair's head and packaged the five-time champion for a 3-count. Hiro Matsuda and Flair both argued the fall count but Young revived and joined Long in confirming the decision.

On the TV coverage, Steamboat was greeted with a shower of champagne in the locker room after a brief in-ring celebration with his wife Bonnie and son. Steamboat said, "I've got to take my hat off to Ric Flair for the kind of champion he's been and I'll be the first to sign for a return match when the papers are ready." A return which may come as early as April 2 on TBS. MATCH RATING: PINFALL! A classic you'll want to save and a shade better than Steamboat-Randy Savage at WRESTLEMANIA III.

In other matches:

MICHAEL HAYES VS. RUSSIAN ASSASSIN I: Hayes got a big early pop from the crowd and moved well in the first 4 minutes before the match settled into two three-minute resthold periods. Assassin took the offensive at 13:00, thanks to an assist from Paul Jones but Hayes rallied for a DDT and took the pin in 15:48. Rating: RESTHOLD-PLUS.

STING D. HACKSAW BUTCH REED: Reed's offense consisted mostly of headlocks and throwing Sting through the ropes. Sting scored an early atomic drop on Reed and a near fall at 5:30 with a backslide before taking a nasty bump at 5:30. Sting (suplex) and Reed (neckbreaker) exchanged 2-counts before a Sting clothesline at 18:52. Reed tossed out Sting at 19:30 but the Stinger tried a sunset flip from the apron. Reed tried to hold onto the ropes but Teddy Long kicked his hands off and Sting scored the fall at 20:06. Rating: BOMB-PLUS....Reed is just too full of inertia.

MIDNIGHT EXPRESS & JIM CORNETTE D. JACK VICTORY/RANDY ROSE/PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY (Rose to leave NWA): Dennis Condrey no-showed, which probably jeopardizes a future planned angle. Cornette popped Victory on the ears at 3:00, which drew a big pop. Paul E. missed a swing and hit Randy Rose at 3:15. The mid-match portion had Stan Lane trying to rally from trouble before Bobby Eaton tagged in at 13:10 and connected with a dropkick from the top turnbuckle at 13:30. Dangerously tagged in at 13:45 and begins pounding Cornette before Jim rallies and scores a big clothesline before Rose saves. Lane tags in Cornette and all four of the wrestlers move in. Rose misses a leap off the top rope at 15:00 but Victory saves. As Eaton is being whipped, Lane crashes Victory into Rose, who is double DDT'd and pinned at 15:54. Rating: DRAW-PLUS...for Cornette & Paul E.

NWA TV TITLE: MIKE ROTUNDA D. RICK STEINER to win title. Lots of amateur-style moves early and at 9:03, Steiner gets a 2-count with a grapevine. His biggest mistake: a powerslam on Rotunda in which he began to bark after a 1-count. Kevin Sullivan arrives to tell Steiner, "You have a pretty little dog back in the back." Sullivan laughs his horror movie laugh and Steiner comes out after Sullivan. Steiner's brother, Scott, who joined him tonight (and explained before the match that Rick is the way he is because of a car accident), has to calm him. Rotunda immediately scores a 2-count suplex and the two brawl before Steiner gets a sleeper. But as he shoots himself onto the mat, his shoulders are down with the sleeper still applied and Steiner pins himself and loses the belt at 16:15. RATING: DRAW....not quite as good as the STARRCADE match but a different finish.

U.S. TITLE: LEX LUGER D. BARRY WINDHAM to regain belt. This was the surprise title change to me....and a surprisingly outstanding match. Lots of power moves and a good story in this one. Luger went for a sleeper at :45 and Barry a suplex at 1:00 that Lex didn't sell. Lex followed with a suplex and military press and another good series before missing a dive from the top rope and rolling out of the ring. The two trade blows and Luger juices above the right eye. Barry slams Luger into a table and tries to clobber him but slams his fist into a ringpost. Barry's hand juices and the story is that he may have broken it (actually, Barry is facing upcoming surgery). Barry tries an ineffective claw at 6:12 and follows with a powerslam at 8:04 and a superplex at 9:10 for a 2 3/4 count. He then goes for a belly-to-back suplex and as he does, Luger raises his own shoulder on two and Barry's shoulder is counted on three. Luger wins the belt but Barry grabs it and piledrives Lex onto it. Luger wins the fall in 10:44. RATING: POWERSLAM-PLUS....excellent power moves.

WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: ROAD WARRIORS D. KEVIN SULLIVAN/STEVE WILLIAMS to retain titles. Lots of Hawk power moves on Sullivan to begin with. Doc double clotheslined at 2:45 for 2½ count. Animal is thrown over the top and chaired on the shoulder at 3:25. Doc uses a karate kick for a 2½ count on Animal at 4:05. Then the Varsity Club begins to work on Animal's shoulder before Animal and Doc clothesline each other. Hawk & Sullivan finally tag in and Hawk goes nuts. Then, the two take their brawl outside the ring before Hawk is posted. Animal then begins to work on Sullivan but as Doc jumps him, Hawk recovers and dives onto Sullivan at the same time Williams crashes onto Animal. It appears to be a double pin but Hawk and Sullivan are the legal men in and Teddy Long scores the fall for the Warriors in 8:56. RATING: POWERSLAM....they really gave quality action in this one.

CHI-TOWN CLIPS: Biggest disappointment was Condrey no-showing. The match was adequate but Dennis should have been there....Good moves: dressing room interviews before every match and virtually all of the key competitors were interviewed....Plus, there were pinfalls in every match, something never before seen on an NWA pay-per-view....We'll detail our review more next week but after an early audio upcut on Hayes, no major technical flaws....Meltzer Mania in the front row next to the Chicago Bears' Brad Muster and Steve Sims yelling, "Family unit" when Steamboat came out....The setup package reviewing the Flair-Steamboat saga didn't come off that well because of an attempt at live narration combined with tape....The show was worth it, though, for the last three matches, particularly the finale. Bet the mortgage on an April 2 rematch....Kudos to the TBS/NWA officials. They did as well as the DALLAS producers in that at least four possible scenarios had been presented to me and Sunday night, I was convinced Steamboat would not win. We'll rate the overall show on the 25 scale next week.

STEVE'S SIDELIGHTS
By STEVE BEVERLY
MATWATCH Editor

There are stories and, then, there are stories. Last week's WWF admission that its wrestling contests are for "purposes of entertainment" exhibited as much impact as saying (apologies to Jim Ross) that Barry Switzer is a controversial football coach.

For about 72 hours after the page one item in THE NEW YORK TIMES surfaced, phone lines burned among officials of virtually every wrestling promotion in America, radio talk show hosts suddenly had new fodder in major cities and the tabloid shows, along with GOOD MORNING AMERICA, quickly had a new hook (I can't wait for the upcoming issues of WEEKLY WORLD NEWS at my grocery checkout).

About three dozen of you MATWATCHers have called to ask, "Steve, what does this mean?" After reading the TIMES story in detail and mulling it over, my conclusion is: absolutely nothing. And if you want any more proof, look at the sellout crowds the WWF had in all but one city last week. The NWA had one of its highest-rated CLASH specials to date last Wednesday night. And the brilliant Roddy Piper made an excellent defense of the WWF's stand on GMA in a fashion that the casual fan could conceivably buy.

To be blunt, the average wrestling fan---meaning no disrespect (because this is likewise true of the average non-fan) doesn't even read THE NEW YORK TIMES. Second, even though papers in Atlanta and Dallas and several other major cities did local tie-ins to the WWF testimony before the New Jersey Senate (and Ric Flair was hot at the ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION for lumping him in the same paragraph with WWF names), the impact and/or damage is minimal. Third---and most important, if pro wrestling could not be hurt by the very visual demonstrations of wrestling as a work by Eddy Mansfield and Jim Wilson in the legendary 1985 John Stossel story on ABC's 20/20, it virtually has a permanent coat of insulation. And the end result of the Mansfield piece was that ticket sales and TV ratings shot to record highs that year.

Ironically, the McMahon forces have retreated from any further public comments or TV interview situations they don't control themselves until further notice. If nothing else, the WWFers have scared themselves into believing they came close enough to committing the unpardonable sin that they are choosing to play it safe.

But in my mind, the worst enemy pro wrestling has more than any disclosure of its inner workings is its own hype, in the areas of talent battles, pay-per-view wars and television gluts which threaten its financial health---including even the long haul of McMahon's---more than any cancer in the industry today. That is what promotions---and we fans---best be concerned with before too many people turn off too many sets and away from too many turnstiles.

*** * * THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES * * *****CHARGES NOT PRESSED AGAINST
CHRIS ADAMS AFTER ALLEGED BEATING**

LUFKIN, TX - The wife of wrestler Chris Adams will not press charges after allegedly being beaten by her husband here Tuesday night.

According to news accounts, Adams---who had been scheduled to promote a show in Lufkin last Tuesday night---was picked up on the day of the card after his wife called authorities.

Reports indicate Adams spent at least one night in jail and his wife at least one night in a Texas hospital after the alleged incident. But Mrs. Adams has decided not to press charges in the case. The Adams had a son only two months ago.

Adams had served a jail term in late 1986 and early 1987 for an incident on an airliner. The veteran competitor was set for a Friday night World Class match in Dallas against Buddy Roberts and reports are officials of the Jerry Jarrett-owned promotion plan no action against Adams.

**CLASH V DRAWS 4.6 RATING;
TOPS "SEASON'S BEATINGS"**

ATLANTA - CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS V: THE ST. VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE, the TBS/NWA prime time special Feb. 15, drew a 4.6 rating and 7.0 share of audience in its 2 1/2-hour time slot.

The ratings add up to 2.18 million homes or 5.2 million viewers. The audience levels topped the 4.5 rating for the December SEASON'S BEATINGS special.

TBS program executive Jeff Carr says the audience remained "fairly steady" throughout the broadcast. The peak audience for MASSACRE came during the Ric Flair-Ricky Steamboat angle when the ratings reached a 5.1/7.8.

During the NWA six-man title match, which ended in a nine-man brawl, TBS registered a 4.8 rating. The numbers were higher than TBS anticipated in the middle of a February ratings sweep period where national networks were all carrying first-run programming.

Currently, CLASH V rates as the #3 single basic cable program for the quarter, behind the NFL PRO BOWL and GATOR BOWL cablecasts on ESPN. The next prime-time CLASH airs in June after the April 2 afternoon live special opposite WWF WRESTLEMANIA V.

**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
MOVES TO CENTRE STAGE IN ATLANTA**

ATLANTA - TBS' WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING and morning CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING series will move this spring to a downtown Atlanta concert hall.

According to TBS officials, the two shows will be temporarily housed at CENTRE STAGE, a music hall near the Atlanta Museum of High Art. The first taping will be in early April.

The two series will continue to tape at the hall until work is completed on a new 700-seat theatre location inside Turner Broadcasting's massive CNN Center facility.

* * * COMINGS & GOINGS * * *

NEGOTIATIONS: The tale will be told this week (and may already have been) as to which of the big two promotions gets the services of a major, major star for the next year.

MORE WRESTLEMANIA: More WM5 lineups: Hercules vs. Haku, Ronnie Garvin vs. Dino Bravo, Bushwackers vs. Rougeaus, Terry Taylor vs. Bobby Heenan. This is increasingly indicative the WWF is shooting their wad on Hogan-Savage as almost a one-match show.

COLUMBUS TV: The NWA went to a full post-production style of taping for syndication last Monday in Columbus. Eighteen matches (three weeks' worth) were taped with announcers to voiceover the events later.

HOUSE PARTY: The Columbus crowd of an estimated 900 was considered the worst ever in Municipal Auditorium. Even some NWA officials were saying it's ridiculous to charge \$8-\$10 for TV tapings. In dark matches, Ric Flair & Barry Windham d. Eddie Gilbert & Michael Hayes when Flair pinned Eddie with the leg on ropes bit. The Road Warriors & Ellering d. The Varsity Club & Sullivan.

NWA DEBUTS: Paul E. Dangerously brought out the Samoan Swat Team for the first time and, predictably, it took them little time to get over. Danny Spivey entered in his University of Georgia jacket as the newest Varsity Club member and did surprisingly well. Vincent Young (nee Mark Scarpa a/k/a Private Pyle) is also in doing a breakdance routine that isn't going over well with the minorities. And as you saw Monday night, Scott Steiner premiered alongside his real-life brother, Rick.

IN THE CAN: The main reason Ray Candy didn't meet Steiner on CLASH V as scheduled is he was canned after the Omni show of Feb. 12. Ray refused to do a job or even a countout for Bobby Eaton in Atlanta, likely on orders from Dusty Rhodes, who is bringing Candy and Grizzly Boone in this week.

EYE LEVEL?: Junkyard Dog no-showed the Omni and last Sunday's TBS taping. Promotion wasn't too happy. Seems he had hurt his eye but failed to tell his employers.

IN THE WOODS: David Woods was having conversations with a former major NWA name, whom we've been asked not to disclose, allegedly to take over booking chores for CWF but no details on their talks. In the meantime, Rip Rogers is back in the CWF and expect Wendell Cooley to take the CWF belt any time now.

WWF ON USA: As you saw Monday night, the WWF ran a series of "debates" between leading opponents for WM5, taped in Binghamton, and frankly---they began to run stale. Fans at the live show were calling it one of the WWF's worst ever.

NEW ON SCW: A new announcer, Art Starr, debuts on Jerry Blackwell's Southern show this week and he needs work. He called The Nightmare The Bullet more than once and often erred on the names of the holds.

DOLLY'S BACK: Appears Nicola Roberts will return as Baby Doll to the Atlantic Coast promotion.

THE HOMECOMING: Apparently the ballyhooed card for March 11 will simply mark Dusty's return to Tampa. It'll be at the Fairgrounds and listed as in will be Kevin & Kerry Von Erich (you can never tell about them), Manny Fernandez, Bam Bam Bigelow & Oliver Humperdink and The Commandos.

MIDNIGHT RIDER II: Eric Embry lost the loser-leaves-town match to Skandor Akbar in Dallas Friday night and will return (a la Midnight Rider) under a hood. Embry will supposedly emulate the old JWD "Stagger Lee" routine and claim to be "Eric's cousin." Percy Pringle reportedly will manage.

HELLO, LARRY: ESPN carried the AWA battle royal that led to Larry Zbyszko's title victory. I still contend it is an uneventful way to crown a champion and Larry then mugged it up that Flair "has spent the last year running" from Zbyszko.

RUSSEN LEAVES: AWA executive Rob Russen has left the promotion, reportedly to begin his own and has supposedly told several of the AWA guys not to sign any contracts with Verne Gagne. Supposedly, Russen wants them to seed his new group.

IN MEMORIAM: Last week, we failed to note the passing of Milo Steinborn, one of the legendary Florida promoters. Steinborn died Feb. 9 at the age of 95 in Orlando, the town he promoted Monday nights for so many years. Steinborn has four grandchildren in my hometown of Columbus, Ga., some the children of former wrestler Dick Steinborn.

RATINGS RAP: WWF tallied a 10.3 on 248 stations for the week ending Jan. 29.

THESZ TIME: Lou Thesz will apparently referee some of the upcoming Egg Dome matches in Japan. Thesz has also held informal talks with the NWA about putting on the stripes for some big show matches.

GOOD COMPANY: Enjoyed my visits with the gang at the NWA tapings in Columbus. Had a happy reunion with my favorite promoter, Fred Ward, and his son-in-law, Ralph Freed. I met Jim Ross for the first time and found him to be every bit the personable man we see every week on TV. I was also introduced to and shared a pleasant and informative talk with booker George Scott. If I am proved wrong, I'll say so but I believe many MATWATCHers will be pleasantly surprised at the direction Scott will take the NWA in coming months.

BELT TIGHTENING: Flair & Sting put on 25 of the best minutes ever at the Omni Feb. 12 and Sting walked

out of the ring with the belt amid a near-riot by the fans over his screw-job loss. Security had to separate a few folks.

ON MIKE: No word as of Sunday on the replacement for Tony Schiavone. I know tape has been viewed on the three men we mentioned last week and on Lance Russell. But as of this writing, no one knows which---if any---has the inside track.

GET WELL, BRUCE: Finally, a MATWATCH "get well" to our correspondent, Bruce Grummert, who's having some hospital tests. Bruce, hang in there--you'll be back in those Midwest arenas soon!

CABLE RATINGS RAP
Week of Feb. 11-15

	Rating	Share
CLASH V (TBS 2/15)	4.6	7.0
WWF ALL-AM (USA 2/12)	3.2	8.1
NWA WCW (TBS 2/11)	2.9	5.3
NWA MN EV (TBS 2/12)	2.9	5.1
NWA CW (TBS 2/11)	2.0	5.7

(ANALYSIS: In a week where PRIME TIME gave way to the Westminister Dog Show, CLASH V easily took the marbles (see page 3) but ALL-AMERICAN took one of its top shares ever. The NWA MAIN EVENT is now averaging a 3.1 the last 3 weeks. WCW improved the lead-in of U.S. OLYMPIC GOLD by a whopping 80%, which means a lot of tune-ins are going to the NWA show at 7:05 ET.)

MATWATCH SUBSCRIPTIONS

MATWATCHer Randall Fanning has won the other CHI-TOWN RUMBLE T-shirt and congratulations to him but we'll run another promotion soon.

MATWATCH RATES: \$5 for 8 issues or \$26 for one year. **OVERSEAS:** \$7 for 7 issues or \$50 for one year. **GIFTS OR REFERRALS:** add 2 free issues to your order for every 8 issues gifted.

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PINBALL PROFILE: CLASH V REVIEW

Remember the old Carly Simon song, ANTICIPATION. The one used years ago on the Hunt's catsup commercial. As I've stated before, when one has little anticipation or expectation for an event is when a big surprise often occurs.

From this corner, that's how we view CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS V: THE ST. VALENTINE'S MASSACRE (Feb. 15, WTBS). I looked at that lineup and said this is going to be as big a prime-time dud as TBS has ever thrust on the nation.

Fortunately, some people did some creative thinking and made some entertaining work out of what could have been a lackluster night.

The Ric Flair-Ricky Steamboat angle, which saw Flair stripped to his BVDs and socks to brawl in the aisle (after he entered with a harem and challenged Steamboat's "family values"), was inspired. Plus, the decision to have Kevin Sullivan lock Michael Hayes/JYD/Sting behind a dressing room gate so the Varsity Club could attack the Road Warriors (and subsequently after the face team's escape, end in a 9-man brawl) was right out of the UWF angle book. While Bob Caudle was weaker than usual on selling the angle, Hayes really put on a show trying to climb the gate before a locksmith arrived to free his team.

A quick review of the rest of the show:

PLUSSES: Good, solid wrestling. There was no match in which the workrate was a bomb. Pete Moore's pre-produced opening for the telecast was well done.

Angles: Creatively handled and well thought out. Steamboat couldn't help that so many Flair fans were on the floor that he didn't get the face pop the promotion hoped.

Lighting: Some have disagreed with me on this but the overall lighting was much improved, including the ring entrances. TBS is still experimenting with a new light system and things are looking better.

Jim Ross: Aside from going to the well too often on the NWA's new slogan, Ross proved why he's the top guy in the business with as steady a hand on the matchups as can be and a good sales job for CHI-TOWN RUMBLE. Magnum, T.A. was better than usual but Ross is still having to carry him along. One of the best moves was having Paul E. Dangerously for a third man in the booth in the opener as he provided a much-needed contrast to Ross.

MINUSES: At least two of the matches were way too long, Reed-Casey and Luger-Blackmailer. While I felt the Luger match set up Lex's learning of the superplex, it and the Reed match could have told the same stories in half the time. Plus, at least four of the matchups were not of typical CLASH calibre. And some of Jack Reynolds' ring introductions should demonstrate why I wouldn't favor him as a new NWA announcer.

Technical: Way, way, WAY too many tight crowd cutaways. Most were just mugging for the camera anyway and it became so rhythmic, it was annoying. Stay on the ring action and give us crowd in the aftermath. The shot of the couple French kissing was borderline in taste; **Audio:** Almost unforgivable that no mike was live

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on what I was told was a classic performance by Ross during the Flair-Steamboat brawl. Just should NEVER have happened. Also, the level was fumbled during Dangerously's early comments.

Omissions: No interview with Cornette to balance the Dangerously remarks and the show badly cried out for a followup interview with Flair after the brawl.

MATWATCH 25 SCALE: Total Production, 2.5; Crowd Enthusiasm, 3.3; Match Quality, 2.5; Announcing, 3.7; Overall Excellence, 3.0 (markoffs for audio and technical problems). **TOTAL RATING:** 15.0 on a 25 scale.

BEST LINES - Dangerously, "I'll whip that Pee Wee Herman with the Norman Bates complex." Flair (to Steamboat), "Go home and help your wife with the dishes." Ross, "Don't drink any Kool-Aid from that man (Sullivan)." Ross, "Jim Palmer makes a living modeling underwear. Maybe Ric Flair has that to look forward to." Ross, "Rip Morgan may be a sandwich or two shy of a picnic." Ross & Magnum (on couple kissing), (ROSS) "Isn't that special right there? (T.A.) "I'd rather concentrate on what's going on in the ring."

DUM QUESTION - Caudle, "What brings The Dragon back to the NWA?"

I REMEMBER: Ed Capral (Second of 3 Parts)

Two matches stand out in my mind as the quintessential calls for my favorite wrestling announcer of the '60s and '70s, Ed Capral.

In 1966, shortly after the arrival in Georgia of Tim Woods as Mr. Wrestling (though we didn't yet know Tim's identity), Woods--perhaps the first babyface masked man in Georgia--announced he was coming in to take care of Lars & Gene Anderson, who had risen to the Southern tag belts and a one-week reign as NWA world champions.

A showdown was set for an April BIG TIME WRESTLING TV match between Mr. Wrestling and Lars, who, in the days before his trouble with the law in Hawaii, would have been a prime candidate for the Varsity Club what with the push behind his Minnesota amateur background.

Capral was at his best on this day, first setting up the matchup of college backgrounds--Mr. Wrestling, known to have a strong amateur career, and Anderson, who was sold as a Big 10 champion.

Capral then emphasized the difference in size. "Lars Anderson has the strong power moves, the suplexes and the ability to brawl--plus he resorts to karate when the referee isn't looking," Capral told us. On Mr. Wrestling: "He has the sleeper hold in his arsenal but the man has one of the best ground attacks I've ever seen, typical of his amateur days."

Sure enough, in the first 10 minutes, Mr. Wrestling put on a clinic in amateur style sitouts, reversals and near-pins. At the 12-minute mark, Anderson resorted to a karate thrust to Woods' throat as Gene was distracting the referee. Two minutes later, Lars repeated the move and both times, Woods kicked out on two (remember, in

these days, a karate chop to the Adam's apple was curtains for virtually every wrestler to date), amazing the NWA-TV crowd.

But at the 16-minute mark, Anderson went for a bodyslam and Mr. Wrestling reversed it, going for his trademark 3/4 nelson and leg grapevine (with a headstand for leverage) and Lars Anderson had done his first job ever on Georgia TV, Gene being too late to save.

The key I remember to Capral's call is that he concentrated so intently on the match. Many announcers today, particularly in the NWF, talk through every pinning predicament and give away when a finish is coming by dramatically changing their voice inflection. Not Capral. Ed counted "one, two" at least 15 times during that match, and every time, you felt as a viewer that the end was at hand. One of those nights which left you breathless when the actual finish finally came.

That match is probably in video tape eraser heaven today but I wish Ed still had a copy. It ought to be used as a textbook for milking the emotion from viewers in a dramatic confrontation.

(Next week: Part 3 retraces a match where Ed stepped over the line of his newscaster image.)

IV TEMPO (Week of Feb. 13-19)

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See PILEDRIVER - Excellent
POWERSLAM - Good **DRAM** - Average **RESTHOLD** - Fair **BOMB**
- Poor **PLUS** - Midscale rating.

(FLORIDA) - FLA. TAG TITLE: The Terminator/Johnny Ace d. Brett Sawyer/Lou Perez; Al Perez d. Mike McClaskey; Scott Hall d. El Diablo; Steve Keirn d. Star Rider Blade; The Nasty Boys d. The Executioner/Jim Backlund; **REPLAY:** Mike Graham-Al Perez brawl; **ANGLE:** Dusty Rhodes & The Steelman square off and Dick Slater enters to choke Rhodes with sledgehammer before faces save and impromptu Steelman-Rhodes lumberjack begins and is still going as show ends. **RESTHOLD-PLUS...** show now says matches "sanctioned by PWF."

(ATLANTIC COAST) - Nelson Royal d. Scott Armstrong, leading to a brawl on the set; Larry Stephens d. David Isley; Colt Steel d. Ricky Nelson; Deaton Bros. d. Todd Champion/Trent Knight; M.O.D. Squad vs. Rock & Roll Express still going as show ends. **DRAM**.

(WWC) - Mr. Pogo/Kensuke Sasaki/El Profe d. Hurricane Castillo/Miguel Perez Jr./Heretos; **PUERTO RICO TITLE TOURNEY:** TNT wins 16-man elimination; **COAL MINER'S BATTLE ROYAL:** Heretos wins and Dan Kroffat's pants are pulled off. **POWERSLAM**.

(CWA) - Beauty & the Beast d. Frazier/Reynolds; Scott Steiner DQ over Frankie Lancaster; P.Y. Chu Hi d. Brian Lee; Robert Fuller d. Bob Masters; Bill Dundee/McPherson d. Keith Eric/Nighthawk; Master of Pain d. Alan Raper; **BATTLE ROYAL:** Shogun wins. **DRAM**.

(PORTLAND) - Scott Peterson d. C.W. Bergstrom; Al Madrid d. Rex King with help from heel ref Joey

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Jackson; Jackson d. Mike Golden; 8-MAN TAG: Grappler/Madril/Col. DeBeers/Jackson vs. Steve Doll/Beetlejuice/Carl Stiles/ Top Gun still going as show ends. DRAW.

(SCW) - Steve Prichard d. Chance Myers; Joel Deaton d. Steve Bennett; Ron Starr d. Lee Scott; Georgia Power wins DQ over Mr. Atlanta & David Jones; Mr. Wrestling II/Ranger Ross d. Steve Lawler/Dino Minelli; Nick Busich d. Bob Bennett and Busich is then attacked by Samuel Kent's army and hung over the ropes. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(AWA) - AWA WORLD TITLE BATTLE ROYAL: Larry Zbyszko wins over Tom Zenk in final elimination; MAT CLASSIC: Sgt. Slaughter d. Zbyszko; Top Guns d. The Menace/The Nomad; AWA WOMEN'S TITLE: Wendi Richter d. Ondy Austin to retain belt. DRAW.

(WCCW) - Solomon Grundy d. Mike Hernandez; Jeff Jarrett d. Frogman; Stud Stable d. Dewayne Headers/David Hinkel; SCISSORS POLE MATCH: Eric Embry d. Gary Young but Young gets scissors and cuts Embry's hair; Kevin & Kerry Von Erich d. Hernandez/Hinkel; Tony Falk/Bill Irwin/Brickhouse Brown win DQ over Iceman Parsons/Young/Cactus Jack Manson. ANGLE: Eric Embry challenges Young to loser-leave-WCCW match. RESTHOLD...mostly replay show.

(NWA/TBS) - [WCW]: Ricky Steamboat d. Jerry Price; Danny Spivey (debut) d. Tony Super; Vincent Young (debut) d. Trent Knight; Samoan Swat Team (debut) d. Dale Lapyrouse/Bob Emery; Other winners: Midnight Express, Road Warriors, Sting, Barry Windham, Lex Luger, Michael Hayes/Dick Murdoch, Abdullah the Butcher, Eddie Gilbert/Rick Steiner. INTERVIEW: Gilbert says Steiner is now back under his wing. RESTHOLD.

[VCR THEATRE]: Road Warriors d. Keith Steinborn/Mac Anderson; Steiner d. El Negro; Spivey (debut) d. Rick Allen; Varsity Club/Kevin Sullivan d. Bob Emery/George South/Mike Justice; Butch Reed d. Mark Brown; Luger d. Knight. RESTHOLD...for Cornette's color.

(NWA/SYND.) - [NWA PRO]: Steiner d. Bill Holliday; Mike Rotunda d. Bobby Heath; Sting d. Isley; Barry & Kendall Windham d. South/Royal; Original M Ex d. Bob Cook/Mike Jackson. PROFILE: Steamboat training for NWA title match. BOMB-PLUS.

[WORLD WIDE]: Varsity Club/Sullivan d. Rick Diamond/Chip Montana/Holliday; Sting/Luger d. Cruel Connection; Steiner d. Mike Thor; Reed/Barry d. David Heath/Emery. RESTHOLD.

(CWF) - Terry Gordy vs. Black Bart no contest when out-of-ring brawl erupts; Butch Cassidy d. Masked Midget; Danny Davis d. Pat Rose; Ron Fuller d. Bo Elliott; Mass Chono/RPM Davis d. Gene Spurlock/Billy Marlowe Jr.; REPLAYS: Hunters win squash; The Dog d. Alan Martin. CHALLENGE: Fuller will put up USA belt next week vs. Tony Anthony. RESTHOLD.

(WEF) - [SUPERSTARS]: Rockers vs. Tully & Arn ends in another brawl; Jake Roberts d. Barry Horowitz; Jim Duggan d. Darryl Peterson (Max Pain); Other winners: Bad News Brown, Koko B. Ware, Powers of Pain, Dino Bravo. FEATURES: Ted DiBiase demands inspection of his new belt; Hogan & Savage compare sides of their split story; Bro. Love v. Rick Rude/Bobby Heenan. DRAW.

[SPOTLIGHT]: Blue Blazer Hart d. Barry Horowitz; Bushwackers d. Bolsheviks; Honky Tonk Man d. Sam Houston: : Other winners: Duggan, John Studd, Rougeaus. FEATURES: WMS Update; Bro. Love v. Heenan/Brooklyn Brawler; DiBiase orders title belt to be made for himself. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[CHALLENGE]: Demolition d. Chip Atkinson/Dusty Wolfe; Jim Neidhart wins DQ over Honky Tonk Man when Greg Valentine breaks up Neidhart's bearhug and applies figure-4 before Bret Hart saves; Other winners: Bushwackers, Haku, Anabolic Warrior. FEATURES: Al Hayes announces John Studd as ref for WMS Andre-Jake match; Hogan-Savage breakup stories. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PWTW) - ACM, Nelson Royal d. Bob Emery; CWA, Dundee/Street d. Alan Yates/David Elder; SCW, Ga. Power d. Chance Myers/Lee Scott; WCCW, J.J. Funk DQ over Super Black Ninja; STAMPEDE, Steve DiSalvo wins handicap match and brawls with Makhan Singh before Karachi Vice interferes; WWF, Jim Neidhart interview; CWF, Gordy d. Russian Assassin; AWA, Badd Co. d. Tommy Jammer/Brad Rheingans; MAT CLASSIC: Tom Rice-Don Arnold workout. MARS WRESTLER OF WEEK: Adrian Street. POWERSLAM.

(LTR) - Ellen (Nicole Stoffman) helps her friend Beth become a hall monitor to boost her self-confidence. But the boost turns into a thirst for power. MATCH: Rick Steiner d. Curtis Thompson. BOMB-PLUS.

LINES OF THE WEEK - 1. Paul E. Dangerously, TBS: "Jim Cornette's mama was a wrestler. She wrestled her conscience every time she called an escort." 2. Cornette, TBS: "Jim (Ross), check your kids to make sure they don't have a stamp on their belly saying MADE IN JAPAN." 3. Cornette, TBS: "The second row--graduates of the Marquis DeSade University--are cheering on Butch Reed." 4. Paul E., TBS: "Jim Cornette sounds like Mickey Mouse on amphetamines." 5. Joe Pedicino & Rhubarb Jones, SCW: RJ, "Joyce Grable's thighs are as big as Bambi's waist." JP, "I'll make sure Joyce knows you said that." 6. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "When 2 men go to war, it's generally a woman who initiates the war." 7. Hulk Hogan, WWF: "It'll be ashes to ashes, dust to dust. In God, in the Hulkster, all of my Hulkamaniacs will trust." 8. Dutch Mantel, CWA: "Robert Gibson doesn't have the sense God gave a billy goat." 9. Bobby Heenan, WWF: "You know what Luke (Williams) uses for dental floss?" Rope. 10. Oliver Humperdinck, FCW, on Diamond D. Page, "Who's this guy?" 11. Larry Zbyszko, AWA: "You're a wimpy society of robotized sheep." 12. Tom Prichard, CWF: "When I go to Tennessee, I AM The Stud that week." 13. Paul E., TBS: "El Negro's 10 pounds lighter than Jim Cornette's mama." 14. Cornette & Ross, TBS:

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JR, "El Negro goes about 325, 330." JC, "Before supper" 15. Cornette & Ross: JC, "What college did Kevin Sullivan attend? JR, "I think he went to the Rev. Jim Jones Divinity School and flunked out." 16. Vince McMahon, WWF: "Jesse, you look like Bo Derek in '89' and Whoopi Goldberg all put together." 17. Ricky Steamboat, TBS: "I don't have a Rolex. I wear a Seiko. I don't have a fancy car. I drive a Pontiac." 18. Cornette, TBS: "Teddy Long was the original test case for the Oprah Winfrey liquid diet." 19. Frank Dusek, WCCW: "That kendo stick is designed for embarrassment, especially when handled by a woman." 20. Verne Gagne, AWA: "I was a little prejudiced. I was hoping my son would win the thing." 21. Hawk, TBS: "Danny Spivey, you might have been a Georgia Bulldog but when we get done with you, you'll be bull-squat." 22. Ross & Magnum T.A., TBS: JR, "I saw a lady dance like that one time." TA, "Jim, we can't talk about that on TV." 23. Ross & Paul E., TBS: JR, "Wrestling Abdullah is like playing leapfrog with a unicorn." PED, "That's MY line!" 24. Tommy Rich, SCW: "Bullet Bob, you may fool them dumb cornbread people." 25. Lee Marshall, AWA: "Zen's needle may be on empty."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Larry Z, AWA: "Ric Flair just spent a year running from me." 2. Cornette, TBS: "If I go, we all go." 3. Randy Savage, WWF: "What are you going to tell all your fans when they see Hulkamania's dead?"

PLUG OF THE WEEK - Jim Ross, TBS, for mentioning Abdullah had "devoured my latest copy of PRO WRESTLING DIGEST."

BEST PICTURES - 1. TBS, Flair-Steamboat brawl on CLASH V. 2. WWF, Freeze frame of Hogan touching Liz's behind. 3. NWA PRO, Dangerously at ringside with taped fists.

WORST PICTURE - TBS, for couple French Kissing in CLASH V crowd.

DREADED GLITCH AWARDS - 1. TBS, for no audio on Ross' UWF-style description of Flair-Steamboat brawl on CLASH V. 2. TBS, for upcutting Dangerously's audio at start of stint in booth on CLASH V.

BEST PRODUCTION - 1. WWF, Hogan & Savage segments. 2. WCCW, Embry-Young recap. 3. NWA PRO, Steamboat training profile.

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. Eric Embry, WCCW, for calling Skandor Akbar "Raghead." 2. Cornette, TBS, for calling Steiner "The Outpatient."

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. Jack Reynolds, CLASH V, for announcing Russian Assassins from "Kilos, Russia, with a combined weight of 238 lbs." 2. Rod Trongard, L.A. Z Channel, for repeatedly calling Arn Anderson Ole. 3. Art Starr, SCW, for calling The Nightmare "The Bullet." 4. Butch Reed, TBS, for calling PPV show "Chi-Town Heat." 5. TBS, for graphic calling Keith Steinborn "Keith Jackson."

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - Vince McMahon, WWF: "...can't judge a book by its cover."

WORN OUT SLOGAN IN 2 WEEKS - This Is The NWA: WE WRESTLE!

BOO AWARDS - CWF, for still having Ron Fuller put on the mask as The Tennessee Stud long after the gimmick has served its purpose; and TBS, for no audio on Ross during Flair-Steamboat brawl.

TUBE TALK

You'll love this: the latest to apply for the NWA announcing vacancy is David McLane. Yeah, the former Mr. GLOW and now former Mr. POWW (he's been ousted from the latter, too)...Joe Hamilton in as an administrative aide to George Scott....The Steamboat profile on NWA PRO was better edited but still had four jump cuts, no music, no natural sound and no tripod on the interview....WCCW was basically a recap show because of the snow that prevented a live taping two weeks ago.

I'm still after a Saturday p.m. call from anyone who can give me the results of that a.m.'s WMC/Memphis show....Much of New York City proper, I'm told, was blacked out of CHI-TOWN because of Vince's under-the-table blackmail....I would have liked to see a piece on TBS Saturday on BOTH Flair's & Steamboat's training regimens....WEF did outstanding editing job on separate Hogan and Savage "sides of the story" pieces....I've never been a Black Bart fan, dad-gum it, but Terry Gordy did carry him to a decent brawl on CWF Saturday but they cut away to a break much too quickly after the action left the ring.

If you're questioning the WEF abbreviation, that comes from MATWATCHer Steve Sims' new monicker, the World Entertainment Federation....I have no objection to the new NWA slogan but they're making Ross sell it way too much and it's already overbearing....A key decision in the next couple of weeks could affect the future of PWYW....In March, we'll offer our series on how TV syndication works from market to market.

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